

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release



P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1636 • Fax: 517-373-1453
E-mail: sendcherry@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2003

CONTACT: Sen. Deb Cherry (D-Burton)
(517) 373-1636

Senator Cherry's Forums on Financing College Education Help Families Plan for the Future

(LANSING)—Over 50 Flint-area and northern Oakland County residents attended town hall meetings sponsored by State Senator Deb Cherry (D-Burton) to discuss the challenges of financing a college education. Meetings were held in Waterford and Grand Blanc and included financial aid representatives from Oakland University and the University of Michigan – Flint.

“The parents and students who attended the meetings were able to get a lot of questions answered and obtain valuable information to help them plan for the future,” said Cherry.

“Planning and saving for a college education is difficult in today’s economic climate. We’re lucky the state has excellent programs in place to help families start saving early.”

The financial aid representatives showed parents how to maximize their college savings by mixing and matching various education savings plans like the Michigan Education Trust (MET) and the Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP). The aid representatives also provided guidance about how to fill out aid applications and stressed the importance of submitting the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) in January of the student’s senior year of high school. They also urged parents not to pay to have grant and scholarship searches done. All of this information is available for free on the internet.

“There are companies out there taking advantage of families by charging them to find available grants and scholarships for their children,” said Cherry. “Students and parents can access this information for free on the internet. One very helpful site is FinAid.org. This site provides an annotated collection of information about student financial aid on the web.”

For residents not able to attend the financial aid seminars, Senator Cherry’s office in Lansing will provide copies of the materials distributed at the meetings upon request. District residents can contact the Senator’s office toll free at 1-866-305-2126.

#####